

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace Paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 with the following paragraphs:

[0004] Another aspect of effective casino operation is using dealers who perform well. Dealers are schooled and trained in techniques which are supposed to be harmonized throughout the industry, focusing on the shuffle, card handling, and player association and relation. The interaction between the dealers and the gamblers is the scrutinized, since it is in that interaction that money passes from the dealer, and thus the casino, to the player.

[0005] The dealer/player interaction is, for the most part, monitored using electronic surveillance monitors that are viewed by individuals at a central location and by roving observers. While videocassette recording of from the cameras exists, it cannot be effectively used in assessing dealer's performance, or in otherwise monitoring games of chance.

[0006] Existing monitoring systems do not allow, therefore, casinos to know objectively how many games have been played by at a certain point in time at a particular gaming table. Thus, monitoring of gaming tables has required human monitoring, which is not only prone to mistakes, but adds another degree of uncertainty, since the human monitor can be influenced.

Replace Paragraph 9 with the following paragraph:

[0009] The present invention is illustrated by way of example, and not limitation, in the figures of the accompanying drawings in which like references denote similar elements, and in which:

Figure 1 illustrates a gaming table according to one embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 2 illustrates a player place setting having a bet area and a play area;

Figure 3 illustrates a sequence of repetitive actions that are possible in game played in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 4 illustrates a mask for a player place setting in which no cards and bets are present and a mask for a dealer setting in which no cards are present;

Figure 5a illustrates a roulette layout and mask for usage with the roulette layout;

Figure 5b illustrates a roulette wheel and mask for usage with the roulette wheel;

Figure 6 illustrates a sequence of repetitive actions for a roulette wheel and ball; and

Figures 7A -7B illustrate exemplary reports generated from repetitive actions being monitored.

Replace Paragraph 12 with the following paragraph:

[0012] Figure 1 illustrates a data gathering system 100 according to one embodiment of the present invention. System 100 includes player place settings 110a-g, dealer setting 112, camera 114, computer 115, network 116 and terminal 117. Camera 114 films table 100 and player place settings 110a-g and dealer setting 112 to obtain a stream of digital data that includes the repetitive actions that occur. The repetitive actions are activities that occur in the place settings 110a-g and dealer setting 112. The camera 114 is preferably fixed, and is preferably set at a same zoom position for all comparison operations performed as described herein, so that as much consistency between adjacent frames in the stream of digital data as possible are obtained.